

Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Award Honorees for 2005

Award for Excellence in Public Service



Ruthe Catolico Ashley, RN, MSN, JD, became the first Filipina to be elected to the State Bar of California Board of Governors in 2004. She is Assistant Dean of Career and Professional Development for the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. Her many past leadership roles include serving as president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and president of Legal Services of Northern California. In 1998, Ms. Ashley was a founding partner at the first Asian-American women-owned law firm in the greater Sacramento area. She was a registered nurse for 15 years prior to becoming a lawyer. Ms. Ashley was named one of the 10 most fascinating women in *Filipinas* magazine.

Award for Excellence in Arts & Entertainment



Lou Diamond Phillips has been an actor, associate producer, and director. Among the films Mr. Phillips has taken a role in are *La Bamba*, *Stand and Deliver*, *Courage Under Fire*, and many other films and Broadway theater productions including *The King and I*. Mr. Phillips, who was born in the Philippines, is of mixed Filipino, Cherokee Indian, Scottish-Irish, Hawaiian and Hispanic descent. He has been an active supporter of Filipino Veterans issues and Asian Americans in the entertainment business and has helped to raise considerable funds to help lobby for these causes in Washington, D.C.

Award for Civil Rights



Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu (Posthumously) was a civil rights activist and American hero who challenged Executive Order 9066, which mandated the internment of Japanese descendants during World War II. This challenge reached the Supreme Court, but was not vindicated until forty years later. His path to legal vindication was the basis for the Emmy-winning 2002 PBS documentary *Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story*, co-produced by Eric Paul Fournier and Korematsu's son, Ken Korematsu. Mr. Korematsu was born in 1919 in Oakland and passed away March 30, 2005 at the age of 86.

Award for Judicial Excellence



Judge Tammy Chung Ryu is the first Korean-American woman to be appointed judge in California. On the bench of the Los Angeles Superior Court, she presides over adult misdemeanor trials and juvenile delinquency matters. Judge Ryu was the president of the Korean American Bar Association in 1994 and served as a board member for over 15 years. She was a founding member and on the board of the APA Bar Association of L.A. and has served on the boards of the Korean American Family Service Center and the Korean American Coalition.

Award for Excellence in Education



Dr. Tony Vang is an Associate Professor of Education at California State University, Fresno. He was the first Hmong American to be elected to the Fresno Unified School Board of Education in 2002. Dr. Vang was the founder of Fresno Center for New Americans and the co-founder of Hmong American National Development. Dr. Vang has made numerous presentations throughout the United States on Southeast Asian refugee resettlement issues and their children's education.

Award for Excellence in Business



C.C. Yin is co-founder of both Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association and the Solano County Chinese-American Association. He serves as president of the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce and is active in the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Yin owns 21 McDonald's restaurants with his wife Regina. Mr. Yin is also involved with the Vacaville Rotary Club, Vacaville Counter Force program, his local NAACP chapter, and local schools as well as other educational programs.

California Asian Pacific Islander Joint Legislative Caucus

The Asian Pacific Islander Joint Legislative Caucus is proud to celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month with the Inaugural Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Awards. These six awards recognize a distinguished group of APIs who have achieved significantly in the fields of civil rights, business, education, judicial service, public service, and arts and entertainment. These individuals are trailblazers who have contributed to our communities.

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The California Asian Pacific Islander Joint Legislative Caucus

is proud to present



The Inaugural Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Awards

**Monday, May 9, 2005
Floor Ceremony, Assembly Chambers
State Capitol**

Reception to follow in the Willie Brown Conference Room